

African-American Affairs Commission
 Approved Minutes for October 2, 2013
 Legislative Office Building – Room 1B

Present: Commissioner **Campbell**, Commissioner **Canterbury**, Commissioner **Clark**, Commissioner **DelGado**, Commissioner **Harris**, Commissioner **Hugley**, Commissioner **McBride**, Commissioner **Pierre-Louis**, Commissioner **Thompson**, Commissioner **Washington** and Commissioner **Wright**

Absent: Commissioner **Darity**, Commissioner **Jones**

Staff in Attendance: AAAC Executive Director, **Glenn Cassis**

Public: **Doreen Richardson - President Windsor Board of Education**
Jill Jenkins, Silvia Henderson and Errol Mesquita – Windsor Town Residents

Agenda Item	Discussion (<i>brief summary</i>)	Action (<i>and by whom</i>)
Meeting called to order	6:01 pm Called to order	Chairman Dr. Fred Pierre-Louis
Roll Call	11 Present and 2 absent	Executive Director Glenn Cassis
Public Comment	<p>Ms. Jenkins discussed the Excellence and Equity Study was performed by Dr. Marlon James from Loyola University. The study was to diagnose the achievement gap in the town of Windsor. Some of the findings were; that regardless of ability or past achievements students were grouped according to their skin color and that college level courses are not really college level courses but basic level curriculum. Students are not prepared for college when they graduate Windsor High School. Parents have formed the organization PACE, Partners Advancing Change in Education. This organization will provide a Parent Enrichment Program which will begin educating parents about the education system and a Student Enrichment Program which will cover activities such as college tours, internships, SAT support, scholarship searches and career options.</p> <p>Ms. Jenkins shared oppositional criticism on the study which</p>	

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	<p>is that voices of only students were only included not voices of leadership and teachers. It was noted that students were advised by teachers not to participate in the study, that teachers didn't want to participate because they felt the study was to prove racism. Dr. James didn't include their information in the study. Those that did participate said there is institutional racism and other problems within the schools system. Dr. James does have more information and will be presenting that data as a follow up.</p> <p>Dr. James recommended an equal rights commission within the school, detracking the program and finding new ways to group the students.</p> <p>They are asking the Commission to help put pressure on towns, school boards and assist in helping share the study with other school systems because it can be a valuable tool for other districts.</p>	
Consent Agenda	Consent Agenda - Budget Report, Approval of September 2013 Minutes with correction, and Executive Committee Reports.	Moved by Commissioner Clark , seconded by Commissioner Wright
Chair Report	Chair Report: Dr. Pierre-Louis noted that October 26 th and November 23 rd from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM are dates for the follow up meeting with KJR Consulting. Possible locations would be Union Baptist Church in Hartford or the Hartford Public Library. Commissioner Clark will look into availability at the library.	
E.D. Report	<p><u>Legislative Analyst</u> - Search is almost finalized and an announcement will be made announcing the new hire shortly.</p> <p><u>Nature's Class Room</u> – Hartford Magnet Middle School will be returning to the program, however, will not participate in the re-enactment part of the program. This decision is unsettling to many and there are issues with the decision. Another issue, a history lesson entitled "Catch a Slave" has</p>	

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	<p>been brought to the attention of the AAAC from another Hartford school parent. This issue is now being investigated. Mr. Cassis shared possible ways of presenting these history lessons to young children without terrorizing them and suggested that these history lessons be taught and presented in a way that is sensitive and age appropriate.</p> <p><u>Amistad – 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner</u> - Mr. Cassis represented the Commission. He shared the event’s program and information with the Commission.</p> <p><u>CASE Disparities Study</u> - Not enough information for the study to be conclusive. There will be further discussion and Mr. Cassis will follow up.</p> <p><u>Website</u> – Affordable Care Act information has been uploaded onto our site with several informational and helpful links informing the public about what they need to know.</p> <p>November Commission Meeting – Commissioner Jones has secured Connecticut College for the November Commission meeting.</p>	
Committee Reports	<p><u>Classic Awards Committee</u> – Commissioner Wright shared that the Committee has a carryover of \$2,166.00.</p> <p><u>Public Relations Committee</u> – Commissioner Clark would like to send out a weekly press release about the upcoming meeting in New London to inform the public about the meeting and ask that they submit any issues that they would like addressed. Commissioner Clark also mentioned that she will post a “Get Out and Vote” messages to remind the public to vote in their local elections.</p> <p><u>Community Issues</u> – Commissioner Harris is will meet with Commissioner Hugley to get a better idea of what issues</p>	

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	their committee will be tackling.	
Resolutions	174. BE IT RESOLVED: That the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) will assist the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunity (CHRO) by being a co-sponsor for a town meeting on preventing and reporting racial profiling on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the State Capitol. The AAAC will assist in promoting the event by sending announcements through the list serve and posting on the website and Facebook page.	Moved by Commissioner McBride , seconded by Commissioner Harris
Old Business	Commissioner Hugley voiced his concern over moving the November meeting to New London. He noted that Commissioner Clark has a full schedule and may not be able to commit fully to the project. Commissioner Wright suggests that the Commission put the New London meeting on hold until the committee can decide on a new date. The Chairperson will contact the Commissioners informing them that the November meeting will takes place in Hartford.	
New Business	Commissioner Hugley asked that the Commission post information on the effects of the Government Shutdown on African-Americans in Connecticut. It was pointed out that other than the closing of some Head Start programs in Bridgeport, there were no targeted effects on African-Americans in the state that did not affect other populations.	
Legislative Agenda	No Report	
Upcoming Events	None	
Adjournment	Adjourned at 7:35 PM	Moved by Commissioner Wright seconded by Commissioner McBride

Respectfully Submitted Glenn A. Cassis
 Glenn A. Cassis, Executive Director

Approved by _____
 Donna Campbell, Secretary /Date